

Twelfth Message from the President
October 20th, 2021

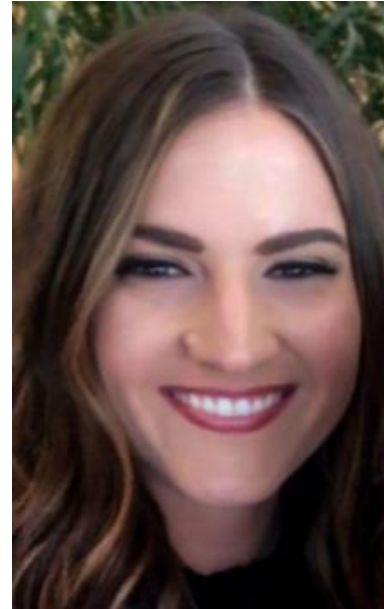
Colleagues,

Recently, I attended the Illinois Association of Gifted Children virtual conference and was pleased to see multiple sessions that focused on equity and access to learning. One takeaway was the importance of front-loading learning experiences to students before they take on challenging coursework, so they can anticipate and adjust to new challenges. Our Excel program is a good example, and I wonder what else is possible for enrichment opportunities while students are at IMSA, especially for students who have not had those experiences in the past. I'd like to give a special shoutout to Dr. Adrienne Coleman, Dr. Sowmya Anjur, and Angi Rowley for speaking at the conference, and Vynnessa Winberg who facilitated our sponsorship benefits, including a video spot, video page, Dr. Akwaji-Anderson's opening remarks, sponsor webpage, learn at lunch sessions with Center for Teaching and Learning, and vendor booth. Also, IMSA Board of Trustees member, Dr. Paula Olszewki-Kubilius from Northwestern's Center for Talent Development, gave presentations about [Principles from Psychology in Teaching Gifted Learners](#) and [Building Psycho-social Skills that Support Talent Development](#) (click links to see video presentations).

This year, we have established priorities across three pillars: Well-being, Equity and Excellence and Impact. You can see our desired impact represented in the [Operational Excellence Dashboard](#). Today, at the Executive Board meeting, I shared [strategy updates](#) for each of these areas. Please take note of the impressive array of [extension programs for educators and students](#) offered through CTL as we aim to reach the entire state (and sometimes beyond). In our equity efforts, our team is actively planning cultural competency professional development that you should anticipate by our next Community Day and beyond. On the instructional side, check out [this article](#) from the *Chronicle of Higher Education* which suggests we rethink the use of "rigor" towards a more inclusive classroom. As we think of our well-being, and health in particular, we can certainly be quite proud of zero COVID cases over the past four weeks. Thank you for your constant attention to health and safety. I also want to express appreciation to the Monitoring Committee as we constantly re-evaluate our protocols and peel back layers of mitigation where it makes most sense.

I'd like to welcome Rachel Force, our latest newcomer to IMSA, as the Executive Assistant to the President starting November 1. She chose a starting day that would give her a full year for Halloween planning, so we can get the most out of our friendly interdepartmental competition.

Rachel is originally from Michigan, earned her Master's in Business Administration at Baker College and her Bachelor's in Marketing and Management at The Art Institute in Novi. She has lived in Illinois for the past four years, is recently married and shares a dog, Bean, with her husband. Thank you for stopping by to say hello and helping her get adjusted.



Friday, we celebrate the impact of Leon Lederman and four of our alumni with our Tribute to Leon Lederman and 2021 Alumni Awards Show. Thank you to our Office of Public Affairs team and our student hosts for making this event special for our community. We are excited to honor the work of our alumni and hear reflections about their experiences and careers. Definitely a proud moment for IMSA. And on Sunday, we host Preview Day for prospective families exploring IMSA for next year. Thank you to our Enrollment team for organizing the event, along with the good number of you offering an overview of our programs. Your stories, expertise and collaboration really make a difference.

Titans Together,
Evan

Dr. Evan M. Glazer
President

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